

WINDS. Westerly winds prevail over much of the ocean north of 30°N and west of 180°. Northerly winds dominate the East China Sea. Winds are variable over the western Aleutians, southeasterly over the central Aleutians, and northeasterly near the Pribilof Islands. From the Gulf of Alaska southward to near 40°N and east of 180°, winds are mostly westerly to southerly, although other directions are common during the frequent passage of LOWs. Over the extreme northern Gulf of Alaska, the prevailing winds are easterly, and northerly winds are very pronounced over the Bering Sea north of 60°N. The average speed of winds north of 30°N is force 4 to 6, although southeast of Kamchatka the wind blows at force 7, 21 percent of the time. The "northeast trades" extend northward to near 25°N over most of the western and central ocean and to 30°N over eastern waters; south of 20°N, these winds are very steady. The wind speeds in the trades range from force 3 to 5. The "northeast monsoon" is steady over the South China Sea and the Philippine Sea south of 30°N and west of 150°E. Winds are quite variable over the eastern North Pacific between 30° and 40°N, southwesterly over the east-central ocean between 25° and 40°N, and variable over west-central waters between 25° and 30°N and 150°E and 180°. Wind speeds over the above three areas are usually force 4. Northerly winds predominate over the Gulf of Tehuantepec, and in 65 percent of the observations they range between force 2 and 6.

GALES. The frequency of gales near and above 10 percent affects most noncoastal areas south of the Aleutians and north of a line from the waters southeast of Honshu to a point south of the Queen Charlotte Islands and west of Washington State. A maximum incidence of over 20 percent is found over a relatively large region southeast of Kamchatka, over a smaller area east of northern Honshu near 39°N, 154°E, and south of the Gulf of Alaska near 50°N, 145°W. Gale-force northerly winds are encountered more than 10 percent of the time by vessels plying the Gulf of Tehuantepec off southern Mexico. These violent squally winds occur when strong northers from the Gulf of Mexico funnel across the isthmus to the Pacific. In extreme cases, they may be felt more than 200 mi out

at sea.

EXTRATROPICAL CYCLONES. Principal areas of cyclogenesis during winter are found from Taiwan on the southwest to the northern Kurils and lower Sakhalin on the northeast and from just north of Marcus Island on the southeast to the western shore of the Sea of Japan on the northwest. The Yellow Sea and Korean coastal waters are not included in this vast region of cyclogenesis. Other smaller areas of cyclogenesis lie over the Pribilof Islands, the Gulf of Alaska, off the North American coast from the Queen Charlotte Islands southward to northern California, and over the east-central ocean about midway between the Aleutian and the Hawaiian Islands. The migratory LOWs move mostly northeastward from the East China Sea and Hokkaido to the western Aleutians and then east-northeastward to the Gulf of Alaska. Other primary tracks approach the Gulf of Alaska and Vancouver Island from the southwest.

TROPICAL STORMS are infrequent in January. On the average, two can be expected every 5 yr over the western North Pacific. Most of these storms develop between 6° and 10°N and west of 150°E and move toward the southern half of the Philippines. Three out of every five January tropical storms achieve typhoon strength.

SEA HEIGHTS greater than 12 ft occur more than 10 percent of the time in an area extending northward from 30° to 35°N to a line drawn from Kodiak Island to the central Aleutians and then to the southeastern waters of the Sea of Okhotsk, and westward from a line 700 mi off the coast of southeastern Alaska and 500 mi off the Oregon coast to 150°E.

VISIBILITY less than 2 mi occurs in 10 percent or more of the observations over an area of the eastern North Pacific between 40° and 50°N and 141° and 162°W, and northwest of a line drawn from Hokkaido to the western Aleutians and then northeastward along the Aleutian chain to the Alaska Peninsula and Cape Avino. A maximum frequency of over 30 percent encloses a small area over the Okhotsk Basin southwest of Kamchatka.

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